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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
930 East Lyndale Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59601

MAP OF  
HISTORICAL  
MUSEUMS  
IN  
MONTANA

Produced by the  
Montana Multi-Cultural History Project

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# LISTING OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

**ANACONDA:**  
**Copper Village Museum & Arts Center** 8th & Main  
*Hours:* Tues-Sun 9am-5pm Sat-Sun 1-5pm Closed holidays No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of area Indians to early merchants

**BAKER:**  
**Ofallon Historical Museum** SE corner of Courthouse Complex 1st St. W & 10th  
*Hours:* (Tentative) Starting in June Wed Sat & Sun 2-4pm  
*Emphasis:* Fallon County history

**BIGFORK:**  
**Bigfork in Miniature** Village Square Arts Center  
*Hours:* May 1st to end of June Mon-Sat 10am-6pm end of June to Labor Day Mon-Sat 10am-6pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Old homestead and logging town

**BIG SANDY:**  
**Virgile Mercantile** 15 miles W. of Big Sandy  
*Hours:* June to Aug Daily Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Old general store antiques

**BILLINGS:**  
**Western Heritage Center** 2822 Montana Avenue  
*Hours:* Tues-Sat 10am 5pm Sun 1-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Western history Indians

**Yellowstone Art Center** 401 N 27th St  
*Hours:* Tues-Fri 11am-5pm Wed-Thurs 7-9pm Sat-Sun noon-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Paintings prints Montana posters 25 Hultman photos

**Yellowstone County Museum** Logan International Airport  
*Hours:* Tues-Sat 10 30am-noon 1-5pm Sun 2-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Old West Indian artifacts

**BOZEMAN:**  
**Gallatin Pioneers Museum** Courthouse second floor  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 8am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Artifacts from pioneer settlement of Gallatin Indians

**Museum of the Rockies** Montana State University 50 7th & Hwy Blvd  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 9am-4 30pm Sat-Sun 1-4 30pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Physical and social heritage of the Northern Rockies

**BROWNING:**  
**Museum of Montana Wildlife** Hwy 2 & 89  
*Hours:* Summer Daily 8am-6pm Other times by appt  
*Emphasis:* Wildlife and environment of area Black-foot sculpture

**Museum of the Plains Indian** Hwy 2 & 89 west of Browning  
*Hours:* June 1 to Sept 30 Daily 8am-5pm Oct 1 to May 31 Mon-Fri 10am-4 30pm Closed holidays No adm  
*Emphasis:* Art and artifacts of eleven Plains Indian tribes

**BUTTE:**  
**Mineral Museum** Montana Tech West Park Street  
*Hours:* Winter Mon-Fri 8am-5pm mid-June to Sept Daily 8am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* 14 000 mineral specimens

**World Museum of Mining** Hell Roarin Gulch West Park Street  
*Hours:* Mid-June to Labor Day Daily 9am-9pm Rest of year Tues-Sun 10am-5pm Closed Nov to March No adm  
*Emphasis:* Complete 1905 mining camp and mining equipment

**CHESTER:**  
**Liberty County Museum** 210 Second St E  
*Hours:* Last Sat in May to Sept 15 Daily 2-5pm 7-9pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Farming homesteading

**CHINOOK:**  
**Blaine County Museum** 501 Indiana  
*Hours:* Tues-Sat 9am-5pm Sun 2-5pm Mon 10am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* County history

**CHOTEAU:**  
**Teton Trail Village Museum** Hwy 287 & 89  
*Hours:* May 25 to Sept 15 Daily 10am-6pm  
*Emphasis:* Farming Blackfoot and pioneer artifacts

**CIRCLE:**  
**McCone County Museum** Main Street 2 blocks west of Hwy 200  
*Hours:* June to Aug Tues-Sat 2-5pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of area

**COLUMBUS:**  
**Stillwater County Historical Gallery** Civic Center  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 8am-noon 1-5pm  
*Emphasis:* 2300 historical photos of area

**CROW AGENCY:**  
**Custer Battlefield** Off Hwy 90  
*Hours:* All year Daily 8am 4 30pm Expanded summer hours No adm  
*Emphasis:* Battle of the Little Bighorn Plains Indian Wars a few artifacts mostly Custer papers

**DARBY:**  
**Darby Pioneer Memorial Museum** Hwy 93 Council Park  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Tues-Sat 1-5pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Darby settlement 1800-1888

**DEER LODGE:**  
**Grant-Kohrs Ranch** West Main Street  
*Hours:* Summer Daily 8am-6 30pm Winter Daily 9am-4 30pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* House and work buildings of early Montana ranch

**Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation** 308 Cottonwood Ave  
*Hours:* Wed-Sun noon-8pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of area including State Prison and first college in Montana

**DILLON:**  
**Beaverhead County Museum** 15 So Montana  
*Hours:* June to Aug Mon-Fri 9am-7 30pm Sept to May Mon-Fri 9am-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Beaverhead County history

**EKALAKA:**  
**Center County Museum** Basement of High School  
*Hours:* Tues-Sun 1-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Paleontological specimens and artifacts of human settlement

**FORSYTH:**  
**Rosebud County Pioneer Museum** Forsyth  
*Hours:* May 15 to Sept 15 Mon-Sat 9am-7pm Sun 3-7pm  
*Emphasis:* Pioneer settlement

**FORT BENTON:**  
**Fort Benton Museum** Front & 11th streets  
*Hours:* June 1 to Labor Day Daily 8am-9pm Mid-May to June 1 and day after Labor Day to mid-Sept Daily 1-5pm  
*Emphasis:* Missouri River history 500 photos, dioramas of Fort Benton

**FORT PECK:**  
**Fort Peck Museum** Power Plant #1  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8 30am-5 30pm Other times by appt  
*Emphasis:* Fenalls

**FORT SMITH:**  
**Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area** Off Hwy 13  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8am-5pm April-May Sept Sat-Sun 8am-4pm  
*Emphasis:* Crow Indian history Yellowstone Dam

**GLASGOW:**  
**Pioneer Museum** Hwy 2 west  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day 10am-6pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of area good Indian collection

**GLENDIVE:**  
**Frontier Gateway Museum** Belle Prairie Rd. off 1-94 1 mile east of Glendive  
*Hours:* June to Aug Daily 9am-noon 1-5pm May & Sept Daily 1-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Montana prehistory to present home steading

**GREAT FALLS:**  
**Cascade County Historical Museum** 1400 First Ave No Paris Gibson Square  
*Hours:* Tues-Fri 10am-5pm Sat-Sun 1-4pm  
*Emphasis:* Cascade County history

**Paris Gibson Square** 1400 First Ave No  
*Hours:* Tues-Fri 10am 5pm Sat-Sun 1-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Area cultural center Montana art genealogy society

**Charles M. Russell Museum** 1201 Fourth Ave No  
*Hours:* Mon-Sat 10am-5pm Sun 1-5pm Adm  
*Emphasis:* Western art

**HAMILTON:**  
**Bitterroot Heritage Center** Old Courthouse  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 1-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Bitterroot Valley history archives

**Ricketts Memorial Museum** Old Courthouse  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 1-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of Spotted Fever Research

**HAVRE:**  
**H. Earl Clark Memorial Museum** Fairgrounds on Hwy 2 west of Havre  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 9am-9pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Archaeology and interpretation of buffalo jump site area history

**Northern Montana College Collections** Northern Montana College Math-Science Building  
*Hours:* During school sessions Mon-Fri 8am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Natural history Indian artifacts

**HELENA:**  
**Frontier Town Museum** Hwy 12 west of Helena  
*Hours:* April 1 to Oct 30 Daily 9-11am Winter hours vary  
*Emphasis:* Indian artifacts

**Montana Historical Society** 225 North Roberts  
*Hours:* Winter Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 9am-5pm Summer Daily 8am-5pm  
*Emphasis:* History of Montana prehistoric to present C M Russell art

**KALISPELL:**  
**Conrad Mansion** Woodland Ave. between 3rd & 4th Streets East  
*Hours:* May 15 to Oct 15 Daily guided tours 10am-5 30pm Adults \$2 children \$1  
*Emphasis:* Restored 1895 Norman style mansion

**Hockaday Center for the Arts** 2nd Ave E & 3rd St  
*Hours:* Tues-Sat 10am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Montana art

**LEWISTOWN:**  
**Central Montana Museum** 408 East Main  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
*Emphasis:* Area history

**LIBBY:**  
**Heritage Museum** Hwy 2 east of Libby  
*Hours:* June to Sept Mon-Fri 10am-5pm Sun 1-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Area history especially 1880-1920

**Libby Branch Montana Historical Society** Stat Route 2  
*Hours:* May to mid-Sept Daily 9 30am-6pm Other open Oct to April Mon-Fri 8am 4 30pm  
*Emphasis:* History of area logging mining home steading

**LIVINGSTON:**  
**Park County Museum** 118 West Chinook  
*Hours:* June 1 to Labor Day Daily 2 5pm 7-9pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Archaeology area history

**LOMA**  
**Earth Science Museum** 106 Main St  
*Hours:* June 1 to Sept 30 Daily 9am-4pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Earth sciences Indian artifacts

**MALTA:**  
**Phillips County Historical Museum** Old Carriage Library Building  
*Hours:* Will open in September 1980  
*Emphasis:* Homesteading cattle era

**MILES CITY:**  
**Culbertson Old West Gallery** 1600 Main Street  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 9am-4pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* 400 Hultman photos 1100 negatives on file

**Range Riders Museum** Hwy 10 & 12 west of Miles City  
*Hours:* June 1 to Sept 1 Daily 8am-8pm April 1 to June 1 & Sept 1 to Nov 1 Daily 9am 5pm Closed Nov to April Adults \$1 Children 12-18 \$0.50  
*Emphasis:* Early range life ranching

**MISSOULA:**  
**Fort Missoula Historical Museum** Fort Missoula Building 322 West South Avenue  
*Hours:* Tues-Sun noon-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Timber industry military commerce agriculture

**PLENTYWOOD:**  
**Sheridan County Historical Museum** Plentywood  
*Hours:* May to Oct Tues-Sun 1-5pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Homestead era

**ROUNDUP:**  
**Musselshell Valley Historical Museum** 524 First Street West  
*Hours:* May to Oct Daily 1-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Pioneer era cabin 5 room house coal mine

**SCOBEY:**  
**Daniels County Museum** Scooby  
*Hours:* Summer Daily 1-5pm Adults \$2 Children \$1  
*Emphasis:* Farming a Pioneer Town

**SHELBY:**  
**Maras Museum of History & Art** Basement of County Library  
*Hours:* May 1 to Oct 1 Mon-Sat 1-5pm 7-9pm Rest of year Only Thurs hours Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Homesteading early industry

**SIDNEY:**  
**J K Ralston Museum & Art Center** 221 Fifth Street SW  
*Hours:* Duls 1-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Homesteading

**STANFORD:**  
**Judith Basin Museum** Stanford  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Tues-Fri 9am-noon 1-5pm Sat-Sun 1-5pm  
*Emphasis:* Variety of unusual collections early photos of area

**SUPERIOR**  
**Mineral County Historical Museum** Old hospital building  
*Hours:* June 1 to Sept 15 Tues-Fri 7-9pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* County history

**TOWNSEND:**  
**Broadwater County Museum** First block off Broadwater on North Oak  
*Hours:* Mid-May to mid-Sept Tues-Fri 12 30-5pm Sat-Sun 1-5pm Other times by appt No adm  
*Emphasis:* Local history

**UTICA**  
**Utica Museum** Main Street  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Sat-Sun 10am-5pm Other times by appt  
*Emphasis:* Homestead era

**VIRGINIA CITY:**  
**Bowyer Restaurants** Virginia & Nevada Cities  
*Hours:* May 30 to Sept 10 8 30am-7pm Adults \$1 50 Students 75¢ Children with adults free  
*Emphasis:* Social history 1860-1900

**WEST GLACIER:**  
**Glacier National Park Museum** West Glacier  
*Hours:* Mon-Fri 8am-4 30pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* History of Glacier Park

**WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS:**  
**Castle Museum** Hwy 89 & 12  
*Hours:* May 15 to Oct 15 Daily 8am-6pm Adults \$1 Children under 12 free  
*Emphasis:* Restored stockman's mansion

**WINDHAM:**  
**Sod Buster Museum** Hwy 87 5 miles SE of Windham  
*Hours:* June to Aug 8am-6pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Farming mining

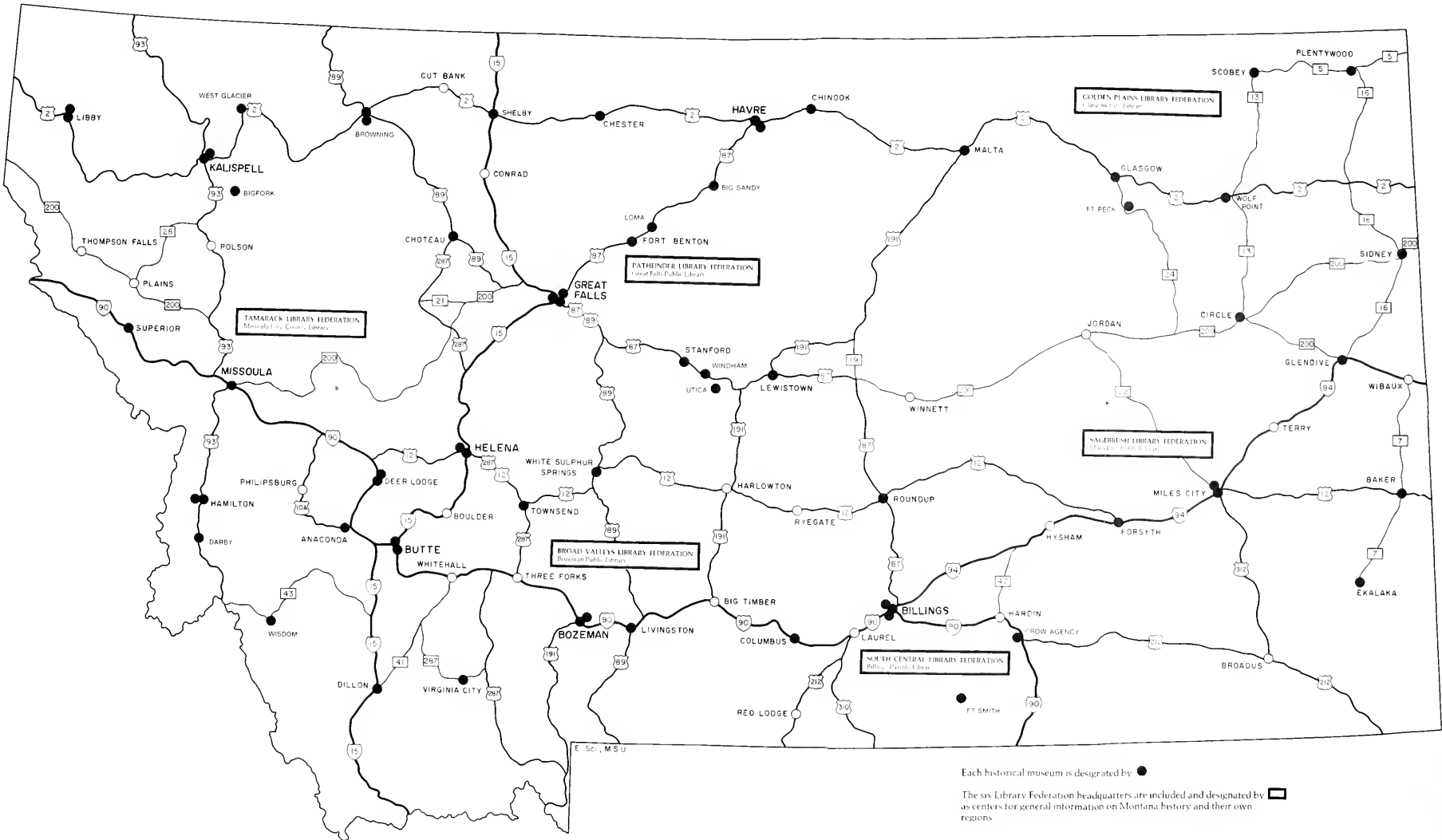
**WISDOM:**  
**Big Hole National Battlefield** Off Hwy 43 west of Wisdom  
*Hours:* Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8am-8pm Rest of year Daily 8am-5pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* 1877 Nez Perce War Battle of the Big Hole

**WOLF POINT:**  
**Wolf Point Area Historical Society Museum** 220 Second Ave So  
*Hours:* May 15 to Sept 15 Mon-Fri 10am-6pm No adm  
*Emphasis:* Homesteading farming ranching


Museums in the state vary greatly in physical size the size and depth of their collections and in their presentation of artifacts. In some artifacts of many types are presented without thematic interpretation in others exhibitions designed to interpret a particular topic or theme. Major strengths of collections as identified by the museums are indicated in the listing under emphasis. Some of the state's monuments and parks have special historical significance and interpretive displays. Those include the following five sites which should be of particular interest. Bannack State Park (off Highway 278 between Jackson and Dillon) Chul Plevy County Historical State Monument (1 mile W. of Trevor on the Crow Indian Reservation) Fort Owen State Monument (on U.S. 93 S. of Missoula at Stevensville) Pictograph Cave State Monument (7 miles SE of Billings with access from U.S. 140 at Lockwood turnoff) and Ulm Pishkun (S. of Great Falls on U.S. I-15 approximately 10 miles then 4 miles W. on county road from Ulm milepost 274). For a more detailed listing of monuments parks and historic sites, please refer to the Montana Historic Preservation Plan, Volumes I-III compiled by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in July 1975.

# MAP OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

Produced by the Montana Multi-Cultural History Project  
February, 1986



Each historical museum is designated by ●

The six Library Federation headquarters are included and designated by  as centers for general information on Montana history and their own regions

This map is one result of a survey of Montana's historical museums and their holdings conducted by questionnaire and personal visits by the Montana Multi-Cultural History Project in the Summer of 1979. It is intended to encourage Montanans to visit their local museums and those in other parts of the state so that we might all come to better understand the rich histories of our various regions and their people. And it is hoped that it will assist visitors in better understanding the experiences of the people who have lived on the vast land over which they are travelling. A more extensive listing of historical museum holdings also was published by the Montana History Project in February 1980. Entitled "A Guide to Montana's Historical Museums," it is designed to be useful to museums, libraries, and the public.

Some museums will be missing either because our survey did not bring them to our attention, because we were unable to get information about them, or because they have come to be since the information was gathered. Please send any additions or corrections you have (including museum name, location, curator, telephone number) to the address below.

The locations of the six Federations of Libraries in the state are included because of their ability to serve as information centers for their areas. Please feel free to ask them for information and materials about aspects of Montana's history in which you are interested.

Special thanks go to Dr. Robert Taylor of Montana State University for his expert and gracious assistance in developing this map, and to Melinda Quivik for preparing it. Thanks also to Brian Shovers and Dan Gallacher for their work in gathering the information from which this was prepared. Without the cooperation of people in museums across the state, this map and the companion Guide would not have been possible. We are very grateful to them.

Valerie Peacock, Director  
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Send corrections or additions to this map to:

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